Amendments to the Abstract

Please **add** the following Abstract to this application.

-- An apparatus for automatically selecting one of a standard decision directed mode and a soft dd mode in a decision feedback equalizer for receiving a data signal comprises an equalizer for providing a DFE output signal and having a control input responsive to a control signal exhibiting a first value for selecting the standard dd mode and a second value for selecting the soft dd mode. The equalizer includes a lock detector having an output for providing a lock signal indicative of equalizer convergence. The apparatus includes a mode selector having an input coupled to the lock detector output and having an output coupled to the control input for providing an output signal exhibiting one of the first and second values depending upon characteristics of the lock signal.--